

today's hot line obsERVERland

LIVONIA — Forty families along Merriam Court, a short, seldom-heard-of street in Livonia, have complained loudly to the City Council and caused city fathers considerable embarrassment. By printer's error, Merriam Court was left off the city's master sanitary sewer and finance plan map, leaving the street with antiquated septic tanks while sewers were being built all around. Merriam Court residents complained bitterly of septic-tank overflow, unusable sanitary facilities in their homes and the resulting menace to young children. Councilmen have agreed a city sewer line on Merriam Court will get "top priority," though "probably not until summer."

REDFORD — Redford Township Parent-Teacher Associations are joining in a battle with statewide opponents of state aid to non-public schools students. They will promote mailings to legislators March 5 urging defeat of the Brown-Traxler legislation. The hope is to help counteract nearly 70,000 pieces of mail that flooded Lansing early this month in support of non-public school aid.

PLYMOUTH — Two highly respected officials have resigned their positions. George Hudson, a member of the City Commission for the past three years, decided that he didn't have time to do the job as he thought it should be done. And Harold Fischer, director of the Area Planning Commission, stated that the needs for his work were not being met.

PLYMOUTH — The Board of Education has approved final plans for High School No. 2 and agreed to advertise for bids in face of rising costs that may boost the price to as high as \$9.5 million. The original estimate was \$8.5 million.

REDFORD — South Redford Schools Board of Education is expected to get its state senator, representative and state Board of Education president down for a public forum on financial needs. The local board figures the buck must bounce to Lansing in some measure.

WESTLAND — Ted Kuckelman, founder and executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, is resigning March 31 for health reasons. Kuckelman, 79, will be succeeded by Mrs. Virgil Gagny, active for many years in the community's business and civic affairs.

GARDEN CITY — The City Council approved a contract covering the city's rubbish pickup collections for the next three years. The new rate will be \$1.35 per unit per month, nearly double the previous rate of \$.70.

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up coming

Wayne State University broke ground for its new medical building. The Observer will tell the complete story with pictures in Sunday's edition.

Area high school basketball teams swing into state tournament play next week. Sunday's sports pages will have the complete pairings of all district meets in Observerland.

Look

Farmington
Enterprise
&
Observer
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Carrier

He is gaining valuable business training through his Observer route. The 40 cents you pay him each month on our carrier subscription plan assures his success in his first business venture. Be sure to ask for a receipt, which will guarantee delivery of The Farmington Enterprise and Observer.

Offer Home As Gift

A proposal that one of the residential showplaces of Farmington Township—the mansion behind the stone wall—be converted into a Community House for general organizational use came to light Monday night at a meeting of the township trustees.

The structure in question sits upon a five acre plot at 24705 Farmington Rd., and is situated on the west side of that thoroughfare just north of 10 Mile Rd.

It is one of the most easily identifiable landmarks in the township, with a stone wall separating the large house from the road.

A SPOKESMAN for the owners said the latter propose making a gift of the house and land to the community. The present caretaker said the structure includes 20 rooms and eight baths.

The structure formerly belonged to the late Mr. and Mrs. Luman Goodenough and now is owned by their three children, Attorney Daniel W. Goodenough, Mrs. Eleanor Spicer and Mrs. Betty Schemm.

In December, Goodenough contacted a number of local community leaders and asked them to explore the possibilities of converting the house to use as a community center, stating that he and his sisters were desirous of presenting it to the area as a civic gesture.

The original portion of the house will be 100 years old next year.

A COMMUNICATION to the trustees Monday declared:

"This gracious old home is ideally suited to this purpose, having many large rooms. With five acres of land accompanying it, this could be used for various activities."

State Approves Oakland CC Federal Grant

Oakland Community College has been recommended for a Federal grant of \$38,924 by the Bureau of Higher Education of the Michigan Department of Education. Thomas J. Patton, OCC media productions coordinator, has announced.

The grant is funded through the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the improvement of undergraduate instruction.

Equipment which can be purchased under the provisions of the Act includes library books, microfilm and various audio-visual media, according to Patton.



Faint Heart Ne'er Won Fair Man, Gals

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

VICTIMS of Sadie Hawkins Day can take heart — it may be Leap Year, but they don't have to marry the girls who propose.

Pity the poor guys who lived during the Middle Ages.

In 1288 a law was enacted in Scotland, during Queen Margaret's reign, which permitted the "maiden ladies to bespeak the men they like."

Unless the man accepted or was able to demonstrate prior commitment, the law provided that he be fined one pound for rejection.

Legend has it that St. Bridget worked a little Irish charm, on St. Patrick concerning the whole business.

Upon being approached by St. Bridget, St. Patrick is supposed to have suggested that one year in seven be set aside for distaff decisions on matrimony.

St. Bridget threw her arms around the Irish churchman and demanded one year in four.

Whereupon St. Pat chuckled, "Squeeze me again and I'll give you a leap year that is the longest one of the lot."

NO SATISFACTORY source has ever been found for the custom of women doing the wooing in leap year.

As for leap year itself — it is merely an attempt to balance the calendar year with the solar year.

The number of days in the solar year figures out to 365 and one-quarter.

So the extra quarter day is saved up until it equals a full day every four years, giving us at that time a calendar year of 366 days.

WHEN POPE GREGORY XIII developed our present Gregorian calendar in 1582, he found the Julian calendar, which Julius Caesar worked out and was then in use, was about 10 days off from the actual spring equinox.

Pope Gregory ordered that 10 days be dropped from the year, and also ordered that each year divisible by four should be a leap year, with one exception:

Years at the turn of a century, like 1800 or 2000, should have the extra day only when divisible by 400. Thus, 1900 was not a leap year.

But we're still not out of the calendar woods.

If you should be around in the year 4000, you'll have to drop another day to make things come out even.

NFH Paperback Rack Does A \$1,200 Business

Reading—sometimes considered an egghead pastime—has become a regular habit among

high school students, Farmington and elsewhere. Responsible for this innova-

tion is one of the simplest things in the world of education—paperback books.

The big switch started in Farmington in 1966 when personnel at North Farmington High set up a paperback library for students of Basic English.

It had been found that students enrolled in this course were reluctant to use the school library and were limited by their poor reading abilities to reading books written for the lower grades.

SPARKPLUG for NFH's in-school paperback library was Michael Rasmussen, of the school English department, who became enthusiastic for one after meeting with the University of Michigan's Dr. Daniel Fader.

Dr. Fader is co-author of the widely-read "Hooked on Books" and was a guiding force behind the paperback program at the Whitmore Lake Training School for Boys. (This institution is the subject of an article in this month's Readers Digest.)

To get the program rolling, Rasmussen and Fader donated the first \$1,000-worth of books.

They were placed on a spinning rack in a Basic English classroom—and they've been spinning ever since.

ALL TYPES of books were on the first rack, from hot-rod adventure themes to problems of adolescence.



POPULAR SPOT — One place in North Farmington High School where students can always be found is at the school library's paperback spinner rack. Tenth grade student Alan Jewett and Bobbi Boltz, a 12th grader, are just two of NFH's enrollees who make regular stops to buy paperbacks which the school sells to students at discount prices.

New Library To Go Up By End Of '69

Thomas P. Czubiak, chairman of the Farmington District Library Board, predicted this week that construction of the new \$1 million library facility for which a special tax levy was approved last year will be started early in 1969.

A site on 12 Mile Rd., between Farmington and Orchard Lake Rds., has been chosen for the structure.

Consultants from the Detroit Library Board have been working with the local organization, he stated, to assist in planning the new building "in order to settle general features including size, services to be offered, facilities for the staff, etc."

SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS of the proposed facility are to be completed within the next month, said Czubiak.

"Concurrently," he stated, "the Board is reviewing the qualifications of architects with

the aim of making a selection by the time the consultants complete their drawings."

He continued: "In order to get federal funds in the amount of one-third of the building costs, we must make the first application to Washington by Aug. 1 of this year. At that time tentative architectural drawings must be completed.

"Final plans and drawings must be completed by December so that a final application to Washington may be made by January, 1969. Federal funds should then be approved within a month after that."

"WE PLAN to begin advertising for bids before February, 1969. With the awarding of the contract that month, it will take most of the remainder of 1969, if not all, to complete construction.

"This timing will permit the Board to accumulate enough funds from the township and city, along with our present cash balance, to permit construction."

Czubiak pointed out that the board is not authorized to issue bonds to raise immediate funds and must wait until the newly approved millage produces revenue to start the project. He said the application to the federal government will be for a loan of from \$200,000 to \$250,000 and that the remaining cost to the local district will be between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

Village Petitions Board

A delegation of residents of Farmington Village, Nine Mile and Gilt Rds., may have had more success when they appeared before Board of Education trustees Monday night than it had with a previous request for bussing of village children to Gilt school.

At the residents' last visit, two weeks ago, they were told the condition of Gilt Rd. would be brought to the attention of the township—and that was as far as they got.

At issue is the fact that village children are within the mile and one-half distance set by board policy for children to walk to school.

ASSISTANT Superintendent James Read pointed out that a penalty is set by the state for the bussing of ineligible children.

Trustee George Nahstoll, after hearing residents' complaints about the condition of Gilt and the trucks which travel it, noted, "We've had a committee trying to get Gilt improved, but we can't get anywhere with the residents along there."

As far as the trucks going along there, the company they're to have been there a long time and has squatter's rights," he went on.

Trustee John M. Washburn III commented on the fact that when Power Junior High opens, conditions for Gilt walking pupils will be worse.

As the matter now stands, final decision on bussing village children will be made at the meeting March 11, pending information on how much of a penalty the district will face for transporting them.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Jack Cotton also appeared before the board to request authorization to continue plans for the league affiliation for the new Harrison High School.

He received permission to commit Harrison to a league affiliation which would include five schools: Waterford North High, Walled Lake West, Livonia Churchill, old Plymouth High and Northville.

Cotton said the league is an activities association which would include debate, band, forensics, student government exchanges and so forth.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Trustees heard a curriculum report from Orville Felton and Douglas Cooper, biology teachers, on the Biology Science Curriculum Study, a pilot course in effect at North Farmington High and Farmington Junior High. The course emphasizes experimentation and laboratory work.

Westcott Peterson and Mrs. Otto Tack were appointed to the Board of Canvasers for terms expiring Dec. 31, 1971.

Officials Differ On Dates

Of two dates suggested for the long discussed private huddle between City of Farmington councilmen and school trustees, the latter body decided Monday night it preferred the one least acceptable to the council—March 20.

All members of the township board said they could be available that night, whereas Trustee Thomas "Nolan" would not be able to attend on the date given preference by the city, March 15.

On the other hand, when the city council discussed the same topic a week ago Mayor Pro Tem Howard Thayer said he would not be able to attend on the 20th, the 15th thus being their only unanimous choice.

THE TRUSTEES decided that despite Thayer's impending absence their own full attendance should have preference, and Supervisor Curtis Hall was instructed to proceed to harmonize an agenda in league with City Manager John Dignan.

Two planning commission designations were made by the trustees in the Monday session. First, they reappointed their colleague, Nolan, to a three year term on the board, and then discussed the vacancy in the office of staff secretary caused by the recent resignation of Howard N. Weist.

Pending legal advice, it was decided to give L. David Slater, Jr., who already is a member of the planning board, the extra \$1,200 per year function as Weist's replacement.

IN OTHER ACTION:

Named Bernard T. C. Jr., as a township official to fill the vacancy of the late Billy Hicks.

Passed a resolution asking a "vote of thanks" to Weist for his many years of service in perfecting the township zoning structure.

Tabled a request for a Class "C" liquor license for 21-14 Mile Rd.

Gave preliminary approval to a plan for Green Hill Commons near Drake and Eight Mile Rds.

Adopted binding resolution for five special assessment districts.